

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace the previous version, and the listing of claims:

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A sealing plug for sealing a hole portion of a panel, comprising:

a flange portion for contacting a periphery around the hole portion;

a cylindrical body extending from the flange portion to be inserted in the hole portion;

a straight portion formed on a part of an outer peripheral surface of the cylindrical body to extend parallel to an axis line of the cylindrical body;

a step portion projecting from the outer peripheral surface of the cylindrical body at a side opposite to the straight portion, said step portion abutting against the peripheral edge of the hole portion when the straight portion passes through the hole portion to allow the cylindrical body to incline with respect to a center line and holding the peripheral edge of the hole portion together with the flange portion, said step portion having a lower surface inclined with respect to a surface perpendicular to the axis line of the cylindrical body and extending from the side opposite to the straight portion to a portion near the straight portion so that the lower surface extends from a portion away from the flange portion to a portion close to the flange portion; and

a neck portion formed between the step portion and the flange portion and having a diameter substantially same as an inner diameter of the hole portion.

2. (cancelled)

3. (original) A sealing plug according to claim 1, wherein said step portion includes a plurality of step members formed with a predetermined space therebetween in a peripheral direction of the cylindrical body.

4. (original) A sealing plug according to claim 1, wherein said flange has a depression at a center portion thereof and a boss formed at a center of the depression.

5. (currently amended) A sealing plug according to claim 2 3, wherein said inclined surface extends for about a half of the cylindrical body at the side opposite to the straight portion.

6. (new) A sealing plug according to claim 3, wherein each of said step members has a circular arc shape projecting outwardly from the cylindrical body and becomes narrower downwardly away from the flange while a height gradually decreases.

7. (new) A sealing plug according to claim 1, wherein said cylindrical body has a bottom surface having a curved portion forming the straight portion, a semicircular portion at a side opposite to the curved portion and two straight portions connecting between edges of the curved portion and edges of the semicircular portion.

8. (new) A sealing plug according to claim 1, wherein said lower surface forms a step portion.

9. (new) A sealing plug for sealing a hole portion of a panel, comprising:

a flange portion for contacting a periphery around the hole portion;

a cylindrical body extending from the flange portion to be inserted in the hole portion;

a straight portion formed on a part of an outer peripheral surface of the cylindrical body to extend parallel to an axis line of the cylindrical body;

a plurality of step members spaced part from each other in a peripheral direction of the cylindrical body and projecting from the outer peripheral surface thereof to surround the straight portion, each of said step members having a circular arc shape projecting outwardly from the outer peripheral surface and becoming narrower downwardly away from the flange while a height gradually decreases; and

a neck portion formed between the step members and the flange portion and having a diameter substantially same as an inner diameter of the hole portion.

10. (new) A sealing plug according to claim 9, wherein said step members include lower surfaces inclined with respect to a surface perpendicular to the axis line of the cylindrical body and extending from a side opposite to the straight portion to a portion near the straight portion so that the lower surfaces extend from a portion away from the flange portion to a portion close to the flange portion.